

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

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O R 261041Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3925

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T LISBON 4886

DEPT PLEASE REPEAT TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL CRISIS

REF: FBIS LONDON 260036Z AUG 75 (REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
ANNOUNCEMENT)

1. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT: MEETING UNTIL LATE INTO
THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 25-26, THE PRESIDENT, THE DIRECTORY, AND
THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MINUS THE MELO ANTUNES "NINE" REACHED
THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS (REFTEL):

--THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WILL BE RESTRUCTURED AT A
MEETING OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO BE CALLED NEXT WEEK;

--THE J-5 (PROPAGANDA AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION) OF THE ARMED
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FORCES GENERAL STAFF WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL IT HAS BEEN

RESTRUCTURED:

--BRIG. EURICO CORVACHO WILL BE REINSTATED AS COMMANDER OF THE
NORTHERN MILITARY REGION BASED IN OPORTO.

2. COMMENT: THE RC ANNOUNCEMENT IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE
PUSHING AND PULLING THAT HAS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE PRESENT
POLITICAL CRISIS. ON THE ONE HAND, THE ANTUNES GROUP WILL BE
PLEASED BY THE SUSPENSION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF ONE OF ITS MOST
DANGEROUS ENEMIES WITHIN THE MILITARY--J-5, ON THE OTHER
HAND THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE RC BY THE LEFT DOMINATED
ARMED FORCES ASSEMBLY IS LIKELY TO BE DANGEROUS IF NOT FATAL TO
THE PLANS OF THE ANTUNES GROUP. THE RESTORATION OF THE LEFT-LINING
CORVACHO IS A MORE AMBIGUOUS DEVELOPMENT. AT LEAST ONE OF OUR
SOURCES IN THE ANTUNES CAMP BELIEVES THAT CORVACHO IS NOT BEYOND
REDEMPTION IF THE INFLUENCE OF HIS ALLEGEDLY COMMUNIST WIFE
CAN BE NEUTRALIZED.

3. THE RC WITHOUT THE "NINE" IS A FORUM WEIGHTED
AGAINST THE ANTUNES GROUP AND LIKELY TO COME OUT WITH DECISIONS
UNFAVORABLE TO THEM. THE OUTCOME OF THIS MEETING
WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE MUST BE INTERPRETED
AS A NET MINUS FOR THE ANTUNES FORCES, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON
THAN THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SURVIVED IN OFFICE FOR ANOTHER
DAY. TIME IS NOT ON THE SIDE OF THE ANTUNES GROUP AND IF THE RC
IS RESTRUCTURED BY THE ASSEMBLY, THE ANTUNES SUPPORTERS COULD
BE PUSHED ENTIRELY OUT OF THE POWER STRUCTURE.
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